

CASE STUDY:

## THE FUTURE MODEL OF EDUCATION: PHASE ONE PITTSBURGH, PA

### HOW CAN EDUCATION USE NEW METHODS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO CREATE EMOTIONAL CONNECTIONS?

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#### challenge

To create an engaging, relevant and emotional learning experience for teachers, students, and families.

#### methods

Before creating the tangibles of a new vision, it is important to understand the intangibles: the emotional perceptions, connections, and motivations of the people directly involved and affected by a new vision of education. We identified these people as teachers, students, and families, all of whom are necessary resources in a learning environment.

With these stakeholders, we conducted contextual interviews, discovery sessions, sensory explorations, and a series of creative and image-based exercises designed to draw out their intangible data. We also performed environmental observations at sample schools from public to private, urban to suburban, and homeschool to cyber school.

#### findings & actionable insights

##### What is the future model of education?

There is no one perfect education model out there. We can learn from the advantages and disadvantages of each existing model and use these points as a means to leap even further. The future model for education evokes at any moment in time the feelings of calm, warm, energetic, diverse and fresh.

##### What is the ideal learning experience?

Teachers are at the core of the ideal learning experience. A child's education deserves excellent teaching – and this is not a point to be taken lightly. Most people can teach, but few can teach well. Our participants most commonly defined a great teacher as knowledgeable, engaging, passionate, enthusiastic, connected, caring and supportive. These qualities are integral to the future model for education.

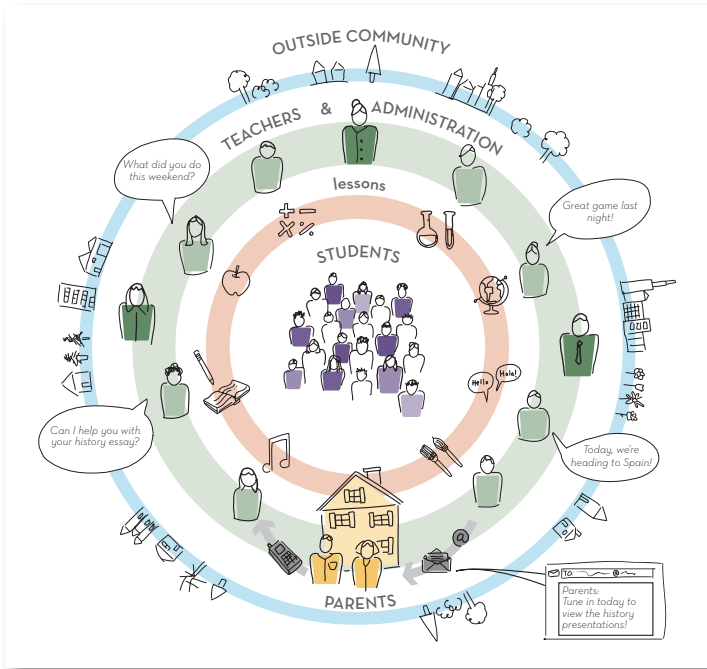
##### What does this mean for the future of education?

The future of education is in creating global citizens. Education needs to step away from the classroom and consider what the global community needs from our students. We need leaders, critical thinkers, team members and effective communicators. Through effective collaboration, innovation, and utilization of resources we can revolutionize the future of education.



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## THE FUTURE MODEL OF EDUCATION: PHASE ONE



### Meet Jerry:



"If my school was a book it would be *Limitless* because education never ends."

"The first thing I do when I get in in the morning is get coffee."



Jerry started teaching in 1990. He's been at the same high school since then. **He loves teaching and considers his students to be friends.** Since he started teaching, methods for teaching have changed. He says that he would feel comfortable teaching with a chalkboard and using the old methods, but it's important to keep the students engaged. For this reason he not only lectures, but plays videos, uses PowerPoint presentations, incorporates food into classes, and uses a variety of other methods to make learning engaging for students. He says, "I can't lecture to them 40 minutes every day... they'll run out of here screaming with their ears bleeding."

grown up with technology. Jerry also believes that color engages the students. He had students paint murals on his walls to help add color to his classroom.

Jerry says that one thing you have to remember is that **the students have grown up being entertained.** They've

gotten used to being entertained. Jerry makes it a point to know his students. He has kids stop by when he has free periods to talk to him. He also has been a class sponsor and has been the advisor for several clubs on campus. His most popular club is Philosophy Club. It is only open to Junior and Senior students and gives them an opportunity to debate any topic they choose.

**RIGHT:** Movable whiteboard walls and generous push-it notes create an environment that can adjust to content at a moment's notice.

**MIDDLE:** Mobile tables, chairs, and whiteboards give a classroom space infinite arrangement possibilities.

**LEFT:** Lightweight rail-based modules allow students to move their desks and often to accommodate various needs and needs.

**ABOVE:** An Airstream trailer can move to different locations depending on local or region needs.

**LEFT:** A walkable in Carnegie Mellon's new Gates building is covered with whiteboard panels so that students can write and draw.

**VISION:**  
**HOW DO WE CUSTOMIZE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL?**

No two students are identical. Quality in education must stem from the customization of the learning experience towards a variety of learning styles. The design of the learning environment is informed by these styles and enables a smooth transition from one to the next. Each of the senses is considered, providing a holistic learning experience for the teachers and students alike. As the child is enabled with more opportunity for choice and flexibility in their education, he or she feels more invested in the educational experience and learning becomes more effective.

*Variety of learning styles  
Flexible environment  
with opportunity for self-expression  
"School is a fun"  
Intrinsic education*

*Playful & emotional  
Interactive  
Engaging  
"Total immersion"  
Valuing the  
in between/  
transition time*

**VISION:**  
**HOW DO WE PROVIDE MOMENTS OF SERENDIPITOUS JOY?**

Once given a grounding from which to springboard, the student of tomorrow thrives off of the element of surprise. They enjoy the constant movement, the exciting moment of interruption every now and then on the break in everyday structure. The new learning experience incorporates these moments of spontaneity into the system with poise. The physical space encourages opportunities for casual conversation and inspires creative energy. Serendipity opens doors for discovery and provides the freedom to go with the flow. Technology has the capability to capture these moments and freeze brief moments of joy to share with others later. Education is exciting, serendipity keeps things fresh.

**TOP LEFT:** Capturing digital memories include using light and shadow to document movement and presence.

**MIDDLE:** The Wonder Room at New York City's Blue School gives students a chance to play with technology in fun and surprising ways.

**BAR RIGHT:** An impromptu guitar ensemble captures and delights students as they meet from one class to another.